

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A system for managing a plurality of resources comprising:

a management module in communication with the plurality of resources;

the management module capable of receiving a request to access information

related to one or more of the plurality of resources; and

5 in response to the receipt of a request to access information, the
management module accesses information from more than one resource.

2. A system as defined in claim 1 wherein the management module

comprises a configuration manager for receiving information from a plurality of resources

and a configuration store for storing predetermined information for the plurality of

resources.

3. A system as defined in claim 2 wherein the configuration manager installs

resources such that the management module can modify configuration information for the

plurality of resources.

4. A system as defined in claim 3 wherein each of the plurality of resources

provides information to the configuration manager in XML format.

5. A system as defined in claim 1 wherein each of the plurality of resources

manages one or more objects, each object comprising:

one or more attributes, each attribute having a data field and a value;

one or more associated tasks that may be performed on the object; and

5 wherein the management module accesses attribute and task information from the
associated resources in response to a request to access information.

6. A system as defined in claim 5 wherein the attribute information for an object is provided by more than one resource.

7. A system as defined in claim 6 wherein each object is defined by a property sheet and the attribute information is a property page in the property sheet.

8. A system as defined in claim 6 wherein the task information for an object is provided by more than one resource.

9. A system as defined in claim 6 wherein each object is defined by a property sheet and the task information is in a property page associated with the property sheet.

10. A system as defined in claim 6 further comprising:

a configuration manager for receiving and storing information from a plurality of resources relating to managed objects; and

a property sheet manager for receiving and storing property sheet information related to managed objects.

11. A system as defined in claim 1 further comprising:

a configuration manager for receiving information from a plurality of resources, each resource having associated objects;

a configuration store for storing predetermined information for the plurality of resources; and

a search manager adapted to receive predetermined search information from a plurality of resources;

a search data store adapted to store predetermined search information for

the various resources; and

10 wherein the search manager searches the plurality of resources in response
to a single search request.

12. A system as defined in claim 1 wherein the management layer further
comprises:

 a configuration manager for receiving information from a plurality of
resources, each resource having associated objects;

5 a configuration store for storing predetermined information for the
plurality of resources; and

 a task manager, wherein the task manager receives task information from
the configuration manager related to tasks that may be completed in managing the
plurality of resources.

13. A method of managing a plurality of resources, each resource having
managed objects, wherein each of the objects has associated attribute and task
information, the method comprising:

 receiving information from a first resource related to attribute information
5 for a first managed object;

 receiving information from a second resource related to attribute
information for the first managed object,

 storing the information received from the second resource with the
information received from the first resource in association with the first managed
10 object;

 receiving a request to access information related to the first managed

object; and

accessing stored information from the first and second resources to access information related to the first managed object.

14. A method as defined in claim 13 wherein the information received from the first resource comprises a first property page and wherein the information received from the second resource comprises a second property page and wherein the method further comprises:

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creating a property sheet for the first managed object;

associating the first property page with the property sheet; and

associating the second property page with the property sheet.

15. A method as defined in claim 14 further comprising:

receiving a search request from a client computer system; and

searching a plurality of resources in response to the single search request using information associated with the property sheet.

16. A method as defined in claim 15 further comprising the act of sharing search information between resources.

17. A method as defined in claim 14 further comprising:

receiving a task request from a client computer system; and

in response to the task request, requesting task completion from a plurality of resources.

18. A method as defined in claim 17 wherein the act of requesting task completion from a plurality of resources comprises:

identifying two or more resources to configure in response to the task

request; and

- 5 performing the task by accessing the two or more resources identified.
- perform a task from a client's computer system.

19. A method as defined in claim 13 wherein the act of receiving information from the first and second resources is performed by a configuration manager and wherein the method further comprises:

notifying a search manager that search information has been received.

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20. A method as defined in claim 13 wherein the act of receiving information from the first and second resources is performed by a configuration manager and wherein the method further comprises:

notifying a task manager that search information has been received.

21. A computer program product readable by a computer and encoding instructions for executing the method recited in claim 13.

22. A computer program product readable by a computer and encoding instructions for executing the method recited in claim 17.

23. A computer program product readable by a computer and encoding instructions for executing the method recited in claim 18.

24. A computer program product readable by a computer and having stored thereon a data structure comprising information provided by a first resource relating to attribute information for a first managed object and information provided by a second resource relating to attribute information for the first managed object.

25. The computer program product as defined in claim 24 wherein the data structure further comprises task information provided by the first and second resources.